

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LIMA 02813 072233Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4338

S E C R E T LIMA 2813

EXDIS/STADIS////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND S/P - DR. EINAUDI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJECT: DETENTION OF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS

REF: LIMA 2686

1. THE LAWYER FOR VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS INFORMED EMBASSY APRIL 7 THAT ON APRIL 4 MONTESINOS' INCOMMUNICADO STATUS WAS LIFTED AND HE IS NOW PERMITTED TO SEE HIS WIFE AND HIS LAWYER. THIS ORDER CAME FROM THE INTERIOR MINISTER. THE LAWYER DID NOT KNOW IF IT RELATED TO AN APPEAL FROM CARDINAL LANDAZURI, BUT NOTED THAT THE CARDINAL SAID HE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ ABOUT MONTESINOS' STATUS BY INFORMING THE PRESIDENT THAT LANDAZURI'S FAMILY (RELATED TO MONTESINOS) WAS CONCERNED.

2. THE LAWYER STATED THAT THE GOP HAS NOT YET PROVIDED LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RECENT ARREST AND DETENTION. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO APPEAL THE ORIGINAL SENTENCE WHICH MAY RUN FROM SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS. THE LAWYER STATED THAT THE FAMILY WHICH HAD BEEN GREATLY CONCERNED FOR THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF MONTESINOS WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT HIS WIFE AND LAWYER ARE NOE

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PERMITTED ACCESS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE LAWYER, MONTESINOS RELATED TO HIM THE EXISTENCE OF A REPORT (DATE UNDETERMINED), ATTRIBUTED TO ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL PEDRO RICHTER, IN WHICH MONTESINOS' NAME APPEARED AS A LIAISON OR CONTACT BETWEEN HIGH GOP OFFICIALS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THESE OFFICIALS PURPORTEDLY PASSED

INFORMATION "PREJUDICIAL TO STATE SECURITY" TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH MONTESINOS. THIS REPORT, ACCORDING TO THE LAWYER AND MONTESINOS, MUST BE THE REASON FOR GOP ACTION AGAINST HIM. MONTESINOS CLAIMED THE REPORT WAS PART OF RICHTER'S EFFORT TO PURGE THE ARMY.

4. COMMENT: THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A "RICHTER REPORT" IS AT LEAST PLAUSIBLE. HE CERTAINLY WAS AWARE OF MONTESINOS' CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY OVER THE PAST FOUR TO FIVE YEARS. THE EMBASSY ASSUMED DURING THAT TIME THAT MONTESINOS MUST HAVE BEEN ACTING AT LEAST PARTIALLY ON BEHALF AND WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SUPERIORS INCLUDING AGRICULTURE MINISTER GALLEGOS AND PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO. HIS POLITICAL COMMENTARY WAS CONSIDERED TO AT LEAST PARTIALLY REFLECT THEIR THOUGHTS AND EVEN GOP POLICY. FOLLOWING THE REMOVAL OF PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AND FACED WITH SOME DISCONTENT IN THE ARMY, RICHTER MAY HAVE SOUGHT TO LINK FERNANDEZ MALDONADO WITH THE EMBASSY IN A MANNER "PREJUDICIAL TO STATE SECURITY" AS A MEANS OF TARNISHING FERNANDEZ MALDONADO'S LEFTIST CREDENTIALS AND INSURING HIS POLITICAL DEMISE. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT ATTEMPT TO LINK MONTESINOS OR "HIGH GOP OFFICIALS" WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN AN IMPROPER OR DISLOYAL WAY. DEAN

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